

part of what the Secretary of Defense and the director of our intelligence operations and all our national security operations should be doing. The main thing I would like to say, though, is that for all those families of the people who were lost and all those who are still laid up in the hospital that were cut up so bad by the glass, we can't make all the problems of the world go away, and our generation's time is going to be increasingly occupied with dealing with the terrorists and the people who try to proliferate dangerous weapons—chemical, biological, small-scale nuclear weapons—the drug smugglers and others who try to kill people in this way. It's not the cold war, it's not World War II, but it's an important part of our struggle to make this a civilized and sane world. And we have to continue to do it. And I'm very proud of those people that served, and I grieve for those who died and their families.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President's 126th news conference began at 4:18 p.m. on the terrace at the Pavillon du Parc. In his remarks, he referred to Carl Bildt, United Nations High Commissioner for Bosnia; Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic; Adm. Leighton Smith, USN, Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe; Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and President Boris Yeltsin of Russia; former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti; Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom; and retired Lt. Gen. Alexander Lebed, security adviser to President Yeltsin.

Statement on the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Missing in the Former Yugoslavia

June 29, 1996

I am pleased to announce today the formation of an international Blue Ribbon Commission on the missing in the former Yugoslavia, with former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance as its chairman. The Commission will be made up of distinguished members of the international community.

Uncertainty about the fate of the missing is a source of anguish for their families and a cause of tension between the parties to the Dayton peace agreement. Only a handful of

the nearly 12,000 missing-person cases thus far certified by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have been resolved to date. This initiative will help to promote a full and timely accounting of the missing.

The new Commission will work closely with representatives from the United Nations, the ICRC, the Office of the High Representative, Physicians for Human Rights, and other organizations to accomplish its primary task: to secure the full cooperation of the parties to the Dayton peace agreement in locating the missing from the 4-year conflict and to assist them in doing so. This initiative aims to support and enhance the work of the ICRC and the Office of the High Representative, which have exerted significant effort and leadership in dealing with this very difficult issue.

The Commission will encourage public involvement in its activities and will take firm steps to see that the parties devote the attention and resources necessary to produce early, significant progress on missing-person cases. It will also reinforce efforts to ensure that exhumations, when necessary to identify the fate of missing persons, are conducted under international supervision and in accordance with international standards. In addition, the Commission will facilitate the development of an antemortem data base to support exhumation efforts.

In the longer term, and with the help and guidance of affected families, the Commission will work to develop appropriate expressions of commemoration and tribute to the lost and the missing and to their loved ones.

Although the Commission will be an international effort, the United States will make a startup contribution of \$2 million.

Statement on the United States Demining Initiative in Bosnia

June 29, 1996

I am pleased to announce a new U.S. initiative to develop an indigenous demining capability in Bosnia. Using about \$15 million in U.S. funds, we will train demobilized soldiers and fund new demining programs for former soldiers. U.S. Special Operations Forces will train and equip deminers from

the former warring factions. Training by U.S. military personnel will be completed by the time IFOR leaves. No U.S. personnel will participate directly in mine clearance operations nor will U.S. forces enter active minefields.

Achieving rapid progress on demining is vital to the success of rebuilding Bosnia. Demining supports IFOR's mission, ensures that humanitarian assistance gets to places it is needed, helps create conditions for refugees to return, and enables the rapid reconstruction of infrastructure and the country's basic economy.

The United States has taken the lead in establishing the Mine Action Center (MAC) in Sarajevo, which coordinates all landmine-related activities, including collecting and disseminating landmine data, coordinating mine awareness campaigns, conducting mine surveys, and overseeing mine clearance operations. The new initiative I am announcing today builds on what we have accomplished so far.

With an estimated 3 million landmines, Bosnia is one of the five most heavily mined countries in the world. The landmine problem in Bosnia is typical of a post-conflict state: inadequate and inaccurate minefield records, little institutional memory of where mines were laid, no experience in clearing mines to humanitarian standards, and a growing need for large numbers of people to move about.

Returning refugees and displaced persons are vulnerable and the risks to children are enormous. Children often "play war," but in Bosnia the toys available to them are real; bunkers and fighting positions are often stocked with weapons caches, landmines, grenades, and other forms of dangerous materials found in a battlefield.

We must all work together to accelerate demining activity in Bosnia, so that economic reconstruction can proceed, assistance reaches those most in need, our soldiers in IFOR can go about their job without fear of accident and, above all, the people of Bosnia can get on with their daily lives.

Statement on the Bosnian Women's Initiative Fund

June 29, 1996

Today, I am pleased to announce an initial contribution of \$5 million to establish the Bosnian women's initiative fund. A peaceful, prosperous Bosnia will require the full participation of its women.

Many Bosnian women now find themselves sole providers for their families. They have lost their husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers. Despite the hardship they have suffered, these women have displayed incredible strength, endurance, and resourcefulness, qualities that are essential to rebuilding their country.

To do this successfully they need resources. They need training. This initiative means loans for income-generating projects that women can do from home. It means loans to women-owned businesses or to companies where large numbers of women work. It means training in business management, marketing and accounting, farming techniques for those returning to agricultural communities, and in skills vital to rebuilding their country, like engineering, architecture, plumbing, and construction.

The fund will be managed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with international and national nongovernmental organization as implementing partners.

Even as I am making this announcement, over 500 Bosnian women leaders are meeting in Sarajevo. They have traveled from every part of the region, crossing ethnic lines, to work together on plans to rebuild their country. These plans will be incorporated into this initiative, for it is the Bosnian women themselves who hold the key to their future.

By providing new programs focused on women's reintegration into the Bosnian economy, we will enable them to support their families, to work as full partners in society, and to promote prosperity. I believe that the enhancement of Bosnian women's economic and political participating will help foster stability in the region.